>

Title: Need to include coastal erosion and damage caused by lightning in the list of natural disasters.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): I request the Government to include coastal erosion and lightning in the list of disasters. Due to the geographical reasons both lightning and coastal erosions have adverse impact on Kerala. Every year on an average 71 people die and 112 are seriously injured by lightning in Kerala. The lightning also results in loss of huge property as it destroys crops in the State. Recent studies also show that 63 percent of Kerala's coastline, which is a stretch of 590 km is being eroded day-by-day. Since the coastal areas are densely populated, the rehabilitation of the victims who lost their house, land and properties due to coastal erosion is a question before the Government and general public. It is estimated that lightning and coastal erosion cost several crores of rupees every year. However, there has not yet been any attempt to assess the loss and compensate the victims. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala has already submitted a detailed proposal which explains the impact of lightning and coastal erosion on Kerala in detail and seeks to include these fatal incidents in the list of natural disasters and also requests for Special Financial Assistance for implementing insurance scheme in this regard. I also request the Government to urgently take a favourable action in this regard.